

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 SAJ-01 AEC-11 IO-14

ACDA-19 SAM-01 /160 W

----- 089776

R 031000Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8277

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS KARACHI 1612

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO FAVORS TALKS WITH INDIA AND SETS

DEADLINE FOR BALUCH MOUNTAINEERS

SUMMARY: IN A PUBLIC SPEECH AUG 2 IN QUETTA, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WELCOMED AND RECIPROCATED THE GOI ANNOUNCEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO RESUME BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT BALUCH BANDITS SHOULD SURRENDER BY OCT. 15 OR FACE RENEWED ARMY ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, IN THE PENULTIMATE SPEECH OF HIS EXTENSIVE TWO-WEEK TOUR OF BALUCHISTAN, TOLD A LARGE PUBLIC GATHERING IN QUETTA, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, ON AUG 2 THAT HE WELCOMED INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SWARAN SINGH'S RECENT STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT THAT INDIA WAS READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS PUBLISHED HERE, BHUTTO IS QUOTED AS SAYING "I WANT TO TELL HIM THAT WE ARE ALSO READY" FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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NEGOTIATIONS. BHUTTO PLEDGED EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE THE

SIMLA AGREEMENT A SUCCESS, ADDING "WE ARE MUSLIMS AND MUSLIMS DO NOT GO BACK ON THEIR PROMISES". BHUTTO RECALLED THAT INDIA'S MAY 18 DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE HAD AROUSED INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND SAID THAT PAKISTAN WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO HALT SUCH PROLIFERATION AT THE COMING UNGA. IN PASSING, HE REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED PAKISTANI-SOVIET RELATIONS AS CORDIAL AND IMPROVING, AND NOTED THAT PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND PRC AND OTHER COUNTRIES WERE GOOD.

2. TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS OF THE THOUSANDS OF BALUCH AND PATHANS WHO HAD COME TO HEAR HIM SUM UP HIS BALUCHISTAN TOUR, BHUTTO FIXED OCT 15 AS THE DATE BY WHICH INSURGENTS IN THE MOUNTAINS MUST SURRENDER THEIR ARMS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THOSE WHO RESPONDED, HE SAID, WOULD BE TREATED JUSTLY AND POSSIBLY PARDONED. THOSE WHO REMAINED HOSTILE WOULD FACE RENEWED ARMY ACTION AGAINST THEM. BHUTTO ARGUED THAT HIS MAY 15 ORDER TO END MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE INSURGENTS HAD BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY THEM AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. BHUTTO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IF THE DISSIDENTS COOPERATED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES WITH THE BALUCH THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE REST OF BHUTTO'S SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO A REVIEW OF HIS ITINERARY, EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE THAT HIS LISTENERS WOULD ADOPT A PAKISTANI AND NOT A PAROCHIAL APPROACH AND REPEATED CRITICISM OF OPPOSITION LEADER WALI KHAN AND HIS ALLEGED AFGHAN AND INDIAN CONNECTIONS. BHUTTO DID NOT, AS PREDICTED IN THE PRESS, DIVULGE THE DATE ON WHICH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION ON THE STATUS OF THE UNORTHODOX MUSLIM AHMADIYA COMMUNITY. HE CONFINED HIMSELF TO DENYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD IN ANY WAY RAISED THE ISSUE TO DISTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM OTHER PROBLEMS.

4. BHUTTO SPOKE AFTER CHAIRING A HIGH LEVEL MEETING INCLUDING MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED AND FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI.
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SHAHI LATER TOLD THE PRESS THAT DESPITE SWARAN SINGH'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT, ISLAMABAD WAS STILL WAITING FOR NEW DELHI'S OFFICIAL REACTION TO AHMED'S EARLIER LETTER TO SWARAN SINGH.

5. BHUTTO WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUG 4 AND SPEAK TO HIS PARTY WORKERS THE SAME DAY. HE IS NOW SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR ISLAMABAD AUG 5.

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